



City of Gaithersburg Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Gaithersburg Celebrates GIS Day with Activities & Events

Gaithersburg, MD (October 24, 2019) The City of Gaithersburg celebrates GIS Day, an annual global event, in November with discussions and activities designed to promote geography awareness and showcase Geographic Information Systems and how they impact everyday life. With more than 700 layers of information in its database, the City's GIS serves as an important tool for analysis and strategic decision making. More than just a mapping application, the GIS database helps inform staff and elected officials about such things as the availability of affordable housing, impervious surface coverage, most effective snow plow routes, access to social services, and much more.

City staff take GIS on the road on Fridays, October 18, 25 and November 1, 15 and 22, when they visit elementary schools in and around Gaithersburg. Using mapping tools, second graders will be guided through an exercise to learn where their Thanksgiving meals come from and will also learn why Census data is so important and how it is used.

With a proclamation at their meeting on October 21, the Mayor and City Council officially proclaimed November 13 as GIS Day in the City of Gaithersburg. At the meeting, staff presented on how address information is maintained in the GIS system and how it is utilized. View the meeting presentation [here](#).

Explore how GIS and maps help us every day during [Discovery Day: GIS and Maps](#) on Sunday, November 10 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the [Gaithersburg Community Museum](#). This event is free and is recommended for ages five and older. Learn about GIS and maps with hands-on activities that explore geography in all of its forms. Find out how the Census Bureau uses GIS as it prepares for the 2020 Census.

Visit the Community Museum ["After Hours"](#) for a discussion on the future of GPS on Tuesday, November 12. A tasting with Elder Pine Brewing and Blending starts at 7 p.m., followed by a talk at 7:30 p.m. David Doyle, retired geodesist, explores how changes in technology are changing GPS. Admission is \$10 at the door and includes the tasting.

The City's Map Gallery will be on exhibit at the [Community Museum](#) November 14 through December 10, showing visitors how the City uses GIS on a daily basis.

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2-2-2/GIS Day

City Employees will celebrate GIS Day on Wednesday, November 13 from 10 to 11 a.m. with map presentations, a donut-shaped food decorating challenge (a map of Gaithersburg is roughly donut-shaped because of the presence of NIST in its center) and GIS/geography trivia at City Hall.

For more information on these programs and other GIS initiatives, please visit the City website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov, call 301-258-6325, or e-mail gis@gaithersburgmd.gov.

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